

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1292 Sadler Way Rm. 323
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1088



Session – January-April:
State Capitol Rm 513
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3004

Representative Will Stapp

District 32: East Fairbanks, Fort Wainwright, Badger

Rep.Will.Stapp@akleg.gov

Sponsor Statement for HB 236

As of this year, the University of Alaska (UA) system has an estimated \$1.4 billion in backlogged deferred maintenance projects. 40% of state buildings belong to the university, and university-affiliated members across our state are hindered while working, studying, and living in facilities and dormitories that have fallen into disrepair. Without a clear fiscal vision and framework, the \$1.4 billion backlog will only continue to grow, and our university system will suffer.

HB 236 will solve this problem by establishing a major maintenance and modernization fund. With this fund, the Board of Regents will be able to leverage state funding to create a clear, concise plan for reducing the UA system's deferred maintenance backlog. This bill intends to bring UA long-term financial stability that will signify the State of Alaska's investment for its students and higher education institutions.

Deferred maintenance is an ongoing cost, not a one-time payment. The University of Alaska building fund exists in the state's budget but has not been consistently funded, which led to an unreliable funding stream which the UA system could not utilize to resolve its deferred maintenance backlog. To remedy this, HB 236 will establish a funding source that will be exclusively used for major maintenance and modernization projects. The future generations and workforces of our state must have the opportunity to thrive in safe, modern buildings that lead Alaskans north to the future.

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